GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7312
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2000
SPICES GROWERS
ASHOK ARGAL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the benefits being accrued by the spices growers from the Spices Board during the last two years;

(b) the functioning of the Board in South India and Eastern India;

(c) whether the Chairman of the Spices Board undertake tours of spice growing area and if so, the places visited during the year 1999-2000; and

(d) the system of functioning of the export members and the details of assistance they get from the Board during 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

a) As per Spices Board Act, 1986, Board`s responsibility for production development is limited to cardamom only. For the benefit of cardamom growers, Spices Board has been implementing plan schemes under which financial assistance is provided for production and supply of quality planting materials, replanting of cardamom, irrigation and land development, construction/ renovation of curing houses.

b) Spices Board has a well knit field set up in South and Eastern India which includes 29 field offices and 6 Departmental nurseries. For export promotion activities and post harvest improvement of spices, Spices Board has 8 regional offices and 14 zonal offices in these regions. Besides Spices Board has set up 3 research stations in these regions.

c) Yes, Sir. The places to which Chairman, Spices Board has undertaken tours during 1999 include Palghat Santhanpara, Myladumpara, Munnar, Adimaly, Trivandrum, Udumbanchola, Nedumkandam, Peermade, Vandamettu, Kumily, Muvattupuzha, Thodupuzha, Kattappana, Kothamanglam (Kerala), Pulney,Periyakulam, Theni, Bodinayakanur, Nagercoil, Nilgiris, Dodabetta, Coonoor (Tamil Nadu) and Dehradun(U.P.).

d) As per the Spices Board Act 1986 and Spices Board (Registration of exporters) Regulation 1989, any person who exports spices from India has to get registered as an exporter of spices. The registration certificate is issued for a block period of three years. So far, Spices Board has registered 1724 number of exporters. From the registered exporters, ten exporters are included in the Board representing the export sector. As far as the assistance under the export promotion schemes of the Spices Board are concerned, all registered exporters are eligible to avail the assistance subjected to satisfying the criteria stipulated under different schemes. The total amount of direct assistance given to the registered exporters during the year 1998-99 was Rs.68.25 lakhs and during 1999-2000 was Rs.156.19 lakhs. However, Spices Board has also spent Rs.176.40 lakhs in 1998-99 and Rs.254.00 lakhs during 1999-2000 for generic promotion which has helped exporters to improve their exports.